have had music lessons tend to have a larger vocabulary and better reading ability than youngsters who haven't had any musical training. And children with learning disabilities, who often have a hard time focusing when there's a lot of background noise, may be especially helped by music lessons. "Music training seems to strengthen the same neural processes that often are deficient in individuals with developmental dyslexia or who have difficulty hearing speech in noise," Dr. Kraus stated.

The Northwestern researchers concluded their findings make a case for including music in school curriculums. "The effect of music training suggests that, akin to physical exercise and its impact on body fitness, music is a resource that tones the brain for auditory fitness and thus requires society to re-examine the role of music in shaping individual development," they wrote.

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Every research paper I read tells us the same thing…..playing a musical instrument does make you smarter! Its impacts reach out to both math and reading….processing and the far reaching ability to make connections and relationships with knowledge….and time management and organization….less stress relief……as parents who support the Band Program…..you are not just making a commitment to music lessons….you are making a commitment to help your children develop those amazing and hard working brains……thank you for that commitment….thank you for all the extra work…practice times…..and support that you give!

Thank you and gift for Mr. Foster….